

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 20 and 25-38.

The above amendment makes minor editorial corrections to claim 20 and presents a new set of claims wherein claim 25 is the new main claim.

Claims 26-36 ultimately depend on new claim 25. New claims 37 and 38 replace previous claims 23 and 24, respectively.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

With regard to Official Action paragraph 1, the Official Action states that claims 3 and 15-22 are drawn to a non-elected invention and withdrawn. However, it is considered that claim 20 should be retained since it is within the scope of the elected invention i.e. Group I.

With regard to Official Action paragraph 2, claims 23 and 24 have been canceled and replaced by claims 37 and 38 respectively, which are free from the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Yufu SAGARA et al.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

By: _____

Matthew Jacob
Matthew Jacob
Registration No. 25,154
Attorney for Applicants

MJ/da
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
September 29, 2003